

ROBOTS ON THE RAMPAGE

DMITRI A. BORGMANN
Dayton, Washington

In 1920, the Czech playwright Karel Capek thrust Rossum's Universal Robots upon an unsuspecting world. The robots in his play, R.U.R., were artificially manufactured persons, mechanically efficient but at first devoid of sensibility. They eventually acquired souls and began acting like human beings, revolting against their masters and destroying them.

Both the popularity and the utility of robots - of mechanical, synthetic, or machine-made humans - have come a long way since Capek's time. We are, in fact, now on the threshold of the Age of Robotics, in which machines resembling men will perform many of their functions, leaving the human race with time for more creative pursuits.

How well are you equipped to recognize and to deal with the robots coming into your life? This quiz is designed to test your knowledge of the more significant types of robots and other simulations of human beings. Listed below are the definitions or descriptions of twenty different names or terms for already known robots, with the numbers of letters in the answer words shown in parentheses. How many of them can you identify?

You should be able to score 12 or better. If you fall short of that minimum, beware: you are in mortal danger of being eliminated by the artificial humans now abroad in our land!

1. Dorothy's heartless companion in The Wizard of Oz - originally, Lyman Frank Baum's turn-of-the-century creation (3,7)
2. A figure, such as a tiny wooden soldier, that appears to imitate the motions of a human being (6)
3. Any one of a race of robots dedicated to the destruction of human beings in the 1978-1980 ABC-TV series Battlestar Galactica (5)
4. A simulation of the human body consisting of detachable pieces, for exhibiting the various parts and organs, their positions, and their relationships.
5. The faithful robot serving the scientist Morbius and his daughter Altaira in the 1956 MGM film Forbidden Planet. The robot assumed a life of its own, reappearing as the Robinson family's loyal companion in the 1965-1968 CBS-TV weekly series Lost in Space (5)
6. A robot of human form: a synthetic man created from biologi-

cal materials (7 or 9)

7. A human being whose body includes electronic or mechanical components which replace or augment anatomical structures, thereby supposedly producing extraordinary strength, powers, and abilities. Two weekly ABC-TV series revolved around such humans in the period 1973-1977 (6,3 or 6,5)
8. A jointed imitation of the human body that may be put in any attitude, used by artists (3,6 or 9)
9. Any one of the female robot slaves in a 1974 Columbia motion picture. Its setting is a peaceful Connecticut town controlled by the sinister local Men's Association (8,4)
10. A human body the functions of which are taken over in part by various electronic or electromechanical devices (6)
11. A little man produced artificially in a cucurbit (a vessel used for distillation) by an alchemist (10)
12. An anatomical representation showing the muscles and bones that are visible when the skin is removed (7)
13. A mindless, mechanical robot useful as for work involving radiation or dangerous chemicals, or in fighting wars (5)
14. A living, reasoning creature that is nearly human in appearance or behavior (8)
15. In cabalistic Jewish folklore, an artificial figure fashioned out of a shapeless mass to represent a human being and endowed with life (5)
16. Two robots assisting Princess Leia, leader of the valiant rebel forces in 20th Century-Fox's 1977 motion picture Star Wars, in the struggle against Darth Vader and Grand Moff Tarkin (1-3 and 2-2)
17. A jointed pasteboard doll representing a well-known living person, carried about for amusement (7)
18. A human being deprived of individuality by scientific conditioning and turned into a robot: from the title of a 1962 novel by the British author Anthony Burgess (9,6)
19. A man-made monster human in form - one that slips from the control of its creator, ultimately destroying him: the brain-child of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, a 19th-century English novelist (13,7 or 12)
20. A robot equipped with a set of electrified diaphragms enabling it to respond to instructions transmitted by tones of varying pitch (7)

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.